TABLE 1 - COVER MANAGEMENT CONDITIONS

Select the cover and management condition that best describes the condition during the 1/4 of the year when rainfall and runoff are most erosive and the soil is most susceptible to erosion. Use a single Cover Management Condition Code that represents the cropping system or rotation as a whole. Example: For a rotation with 50% forages and not more than 2 years of row crop (CCOHHH) use Cover Management Condition Code 3 – Heavy Cover.

Description of cropland cover-management conditions used in RUSLE for estimating P-factor values.

Cover-Management Condition	Description
Code 1. Established Meadow.	In this condition, the grass is dense and runoff is very slow, about the slowest under any vegetative condition.
Code 2. 1st year meadow, hay.	In this condition, the hay is a mixture of grass and legume just before cutting. The meadow is a good stand of grass that is nearing the end of the first year.
Code 3. Heavy Cover and/or very rough	Ground cover for this condition is about 75 to 95%. Roughness would be like that left by a high clearance moldboard plow on a heavy textured soil. Roughness depressions would have the appearance of being 7 inches deep and deeper. Vegetative hydraulic roughness would be like that from a good legume crop, such as lespedeza, that has not been mowed.
Code 4. Moderate cover and/or rough.	The ground cover for this condition is about 40 to 65%. This roughness would be like that left by a moldboard plow in a medium textured soil. Depressions would have the appearance of being about 4 to 6 inches deep. Vegetative hydraulic roughness would be much like that produced by winter small grain at full maturity.
Code 5. Light cover and/or moderate roughness	Ground cover is between 10 and 35% and the surface roughness is like that left by the first pass of a tandem disk over a medium texture soil that has been moldboard plowed. This roughness could also be much like that left after a chisel plow through a medium textured soil at optimum moisture conditions for tillage. Roughness depressions would have the appearance of being on the order of 2 to 3 inches deep. In terms of hydraulic roughness produced by vegetation, this condition is much like that produced by spring small grain at about three fourths maturity.
Code 6. No cover and/or minimal roughness	This condition is like the condition typically found in row cropped fields after the field has been planted and exposed to a moderately intense rainfall. Ground cover is less than about 5% and the roughness is characteristic of a good seedbed for corn or soybeans. The surface is rougher than that of a finely pulverized seedbed for seeding vegetables or grass.
Code 7. Clean-tilled, smooth, fallow	This condition is essentially bare with a cover of 5% or less. The soil has not had a crop grown on it in the last 6 months or more. Much of the residual effects of previous cropping have disappeared. The surface is smooth, much like the surface exposed to several intense rainfalls. This condition may be found in fallowed and vegetable fields, or in newly sown lawns and hay fields.